

# THE FLYING CARPET

A colorful mosaic carpet was commissioned for the 300th anniversary of the founding of Cervia Nuova, Italy.

The little city of Cervia Nuova on the Adriatic coast of Italy is known as the City of Salt because of the surrounding salt pans that were the area's main source of income for hundreds of years. The city council commemorated the 300th anniversary of the city's founding by commissioning a public fountain to stand next to the city's old salt warehouses. The poet and set designer Tonino Guerra conceived a work of art in mosaic tile reminiscent of the magnificent Byzantine mosaics of nearby Ravenna to symbolize the city's historical identity. "The civilization of the salt-pans is being swept away, along with its sorrows and its poetry. The beaches, the sand dunes and the song of the reed birds are disappearing, leaving behind their melancholy memory," declared Guerra.

Guerra designed a large irregular-shaped pool filled with a foot and a half of water from the center of which gush jets of water that send aloft a flying mosaic carpet. On top of the carpet are two piles of salt and a bunch of reeds. The carpet and its contents represent the elements of a vanishing way of life that once filled the area with a special poetry. The work was executed by the talented hands of Marco Bravura and appears to waft on the foaming water underneath. Actually, the glass and enameled mosaic pieces are fixed to a sheet of stainless steel 3 mm thick and were set with KERALASTIC, a two-component polyurethane adhesive that simultaneously bonds and waterproofs ceramic and mosaic tile as well as natural stone.

The center of the carpet consists of symbolic motifs that recall the seashore, the salt-pans and the still waters of the tidal flats, the whisper of the wind through the sea pines, the rustle of the reeds and the long cries of the shore birds,

the colors of the trees and the brilliant sunsets reflected in the water, the white of the dried salt deposits, and the hard glint of the sun on the sea. The carpet is bordered with geometric designs to represent the salt workers' lives that Marco Bravura has transformed into a dreamlike vision.

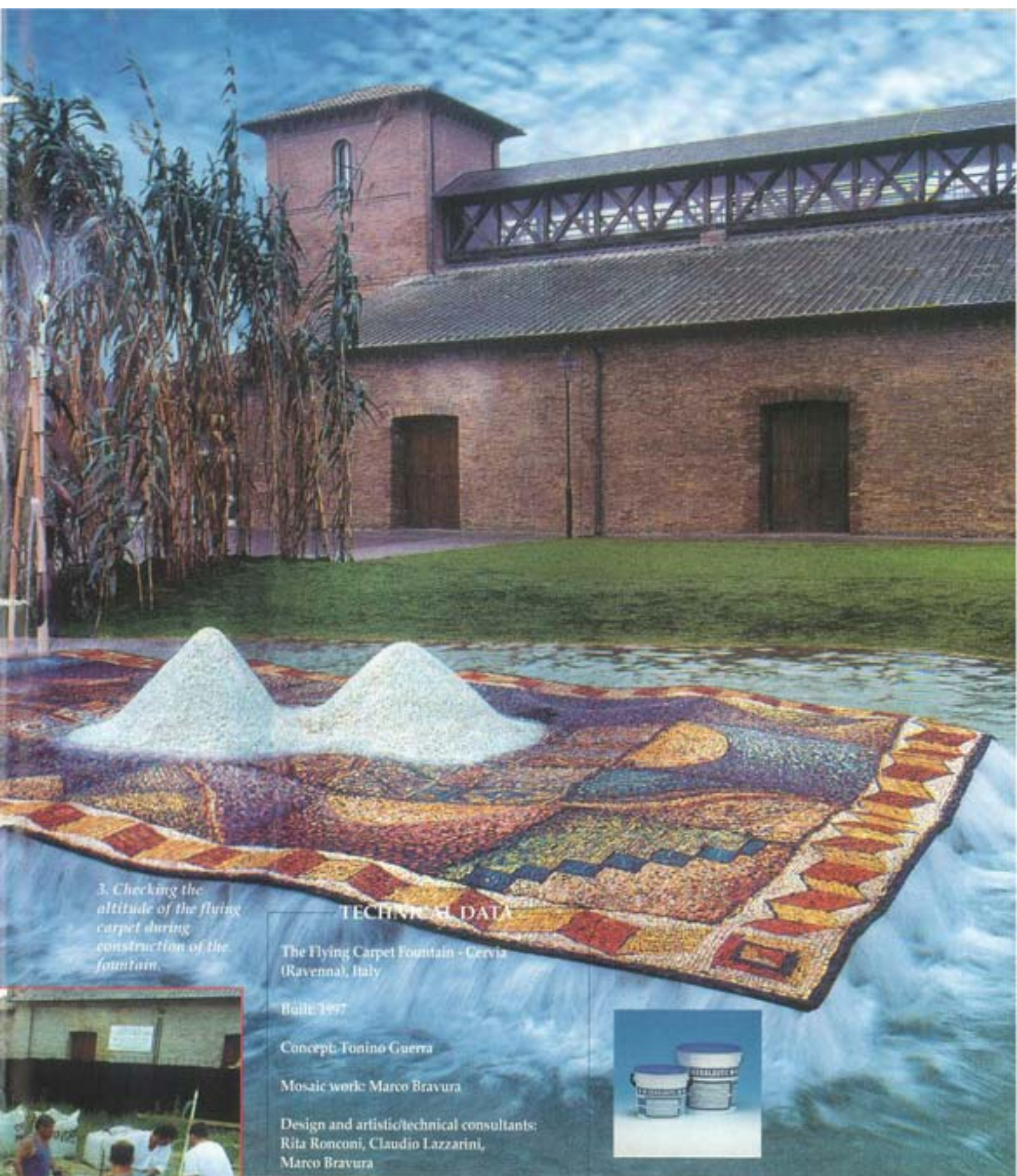


1. Positioning the piles of salt made out of fiberglass, Carrara marble and crystal. Marco Bravura is pictured here working under the vigilant eye of poet and set designer Tonino Guerra.



2. The carpet features a sophisticated pattern of richly colored enameled mosaic tiles with metallic highlights in gold, silver and copper.





3. Checking the altitude of the flying carpet during construction of the fountain.



### TECHNICAL DATA

The Flying Carpet Fountain - Cervia (Ravenna), Italy

Build: 1997

Concept: Tonino Guerra

Mosaic work: Marco Bravura

Design and artistic/technical consultants:  
Rita Ronconi, Claudio Lazzarini,  
Marco Bravura



Commissioned by: The Cervia City Council

Mapei Product\* KERALASTIC supplied by the Pirini Co., Ravenna, Italy

Mapei Coordinator: Maurizio Costanzi

\*This product is manufactured by Mapei in Europe.

The Technical Data Sheet for the product mentioned in this article is contained in Mapei binder No. 1, "Ceramic Tile Installation Products".

